

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 127) was agreed to.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, here is where we are on the status of the Defense authorization bill.

The Senate has passed this annual bill to support our servicemembers and our national security every year for the last 59 years. As I indicated when I filed cloture on the NDAA conference report after Thanksgiving, my intention was and is to ensure the Senate continues fulfilling our obligation to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

I hope the President will not veto this bill, which redoubles our commitment to modernization, advances cutting-edge capabilities, and equips our military with the tools and resources they need to compete with our great power adversaries on land, on sea, in the air, and in cyberspace. These are the steps we need to take to continue to compete with Russia and China.

In the event that President Trump does elect to veto this bipartisan bill, it appears the House may choose to return after the holidays to set up a vote to consider the veto. The Democratic leader and I have agreed to a unanimous consent request as follows: The Senate will meet for pro forma sessions only until December 29, when we will return to session.

In the event that the President has vetoed the bill and the House has voted to override the veto, the Senate would have the opportunity to process the veto override at that time.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Committee on Foreign Relations be

discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN1938, PN2024, PN2101, PN2030, and PN2025.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of C. Kevin Blackstone, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; Cynthia Kierscht, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; Brian D. McFeeters, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia; David Reimer, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone; Geeta Pasi, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 1301 of title XIII of the FY21 consolidated appropriations act delays implementation of reforms to the U.S. Agency for Global Media outlined in section 1299Q of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Author-

ization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. While the FY2021 NDAA has not yet been enacted and may be enacted following the enactment of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Chairman RISC and I believe it is Congress's intent that these two provisions be understood concurrently and that the reforms outlined in section 1299Q be delayed for 90 days following enactment of the FY2021 NDAA.

#### CASE Act

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, after many years of work to ensure small creators have a voice, I am glad to share the Copyright Alternatives in Small-Claims Enforcement Act, also known as CASE Act, passed the House and Senate and is awaiting the President's signature. This bipartisan and bicameral legislation is critical for protecting the creative middle class in Louisiana and across America who rely upon commercializing their creative works for their livelihood.

Photographers, visual artists, independent movie directors, musicians, authors, and other creators who make up the creative middle class rely on copyright to protect their works from unauthorized reproduction. However, under current law, copyright owners with small infringement claims cannot obtain relief because district court litigation costs are higher than the damages sought. That is where CASE Act comes in. This legislation creates the Copyright Claims Board within the U.S. Copyright Office to provide a simple, quick, and less expensive forum for small copyright owners to enforce their rights.

The creation of this bill began more than 7 years ago. In 2013, after a comprehensive study, the U.S. Copyright Office made several legislative recommendations to help independent creators in enforcing their constitutionally protected copyrights. Since then, Congress has worked in lock-step with the U.S. Copyright Office to create a framework to accomplish this goal. That framework culminated in CASE Act.

In response to concerns raised by the library community, the bill now includes a blanket opt-out provision for libraries and archives. This opt-out is expressly limited to activities covered by section 108 of the Copyright Act. It does not apply to activities that fall outside that section, such as websites making and offering unlicensed copies of works. A library or archive must remain in full compliance with section 108 at all times to be eligible for the blanket opt-out privilege and would lose its eligibility for the blanket opt-out if, at any time, it is found to have violated any of the conditions throughout section 108.

I want to extend my gratitude to the photographers, musicians, artists, authors, and many other creators who have helped make the passage of CASE Act a success. There are so many individuals who have been instrumental in